

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 1373

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, TU, US
SUBJ: US-GOT CONSULTATIONS

1. THE FIRST SESSION OF TALKS BETWEEN THE TURKISH AND AMERICAN DELEGATIONS HEADED BY STATE DEPARTMENT COUNSELOR NIMETZ AND TURKISH MFA SEC GEN ELEKDAG TOOK PLACE MORING FEBRUARY 22.

2. ELEKDAG RECALLED THAT DURING HIS MEETING WITH NIMETZ SIX MONTHS AGO BOTH SIDES HAD REAFFIRMED THEIR DESIRE TO IMPROVE THE US-TURKISH BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. ALTHOUGH DURING THAT PERIOD VERY LITTLE PROGRESS HAD OCCURRED, SIGNIFICANT CHANGES HAD TAKEN PLACE IN TURKEY. A NEW GOVERNMENT HAD EMBARKED ON A SERIES OF INITIATIVES ON FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES AND WAS TRYING TO DEAL WITH TURKEY'S SEVERE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ELEKDAG EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT DURING THE MEETINGS OVER THE NEXT TWO DAYS, THE FOUNDATIONS WOULD BE LEID FOR AN IMPROVEMENT OF TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

3. NIMETZ AGREED THAT NOT AS MUCH PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE IN IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP AS EITHER SIDE WOULD HAVE LIKED, BUT HE SAID THE US CONTINUES TO BE HOPEFUL ABOUT THE RELATIONSHIP. HE THEN CONVEYED TO ELEKDAG THE

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PERSONAL GREETINGS OF SECRETARY VANCE AND NOTED THE SECRETARY'S CLOSE INTEREST IN WHAT WOULD OCCUR IN THESE FOLLOW-UP TALKS.

4. ELEKDAG THEN OUTLINED THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT'S VIEWS ON US-TURKISH RELATIONS AS THEY HAD PREVIOUSLY BEEN EXPLAINED BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT TO SECRETARY VANCE AND

AMBASSADOR SPIERS. HE SAID THERE WERE THREE ELEMENTS OF THAT RELATIONSHIP : (A) A NEW APPROACH, (B) INTER-DEPENDENCE OF ECONOMICS AND DEFENSE AND (C) A BASIS FOR FUTURE ECONOMIC COOPERATION. IN EXPANDING ON THESE ELEMENTS, HE STRESSED THAT A BROADER APPROACH SHOULD BE TAKEN TOWARD US-TURKISH RELATIONS; THAT THE RELATIONSHIP SHOULD NO LONGER BE BASED ONLY ON SECURITY COOPERATION. HE MENTIONED THAT ARTICLE II OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY SHOULD BE GIVEN MORE ATTENTION. ELEKDAG THEN REPEATED THE TURKISH VIEW THAT TURKEY HAS CONTRIBUTED TO THE ALLIANCE BEYOND ITS MEANS. HE THEN ENUMERATED SEVERAL PERCEIVED DEFECTS IN THE US-TURKISH DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENT--THE DECLINE IN THE VALUE OF THE DOLLAR, INCREASED PRICES OF DEFENSE MATERIAL, AND THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF NON-PASSAGE FOR TWO YEARS OF THE DCA ON TURKEY'S MILITARY PREPAREDNESS, THE NEED TO RESTORE THE BALANCE OF MUTUAL INTEREST, TURKEY'S DISPROPORTIONATE CONTRIBUTION TO THE ALLIANCE IN ALLOWING INTELLIGENCE INSTALLATIONS ON ITS SOIL.

5. CONCERNING ECONOMIC COOPERATION, ELEKDAG SAID THE GOT MUST TAKE STRONG MEASURES TO STABILIZE ITS ECONOMY, BUT MUST BE CAREFUL ABOUT THE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EFFECTS OF THOSE MEASURES. AN ECONOMIC POLICY PACKAGE WILL SOON BE COMPLETED AND TALKS WITH THE IMF WILL BE RESUMED. REGARDLESS, ELEKDAG SAID, THESE

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MEASURES WILL TAKE TIME TO HAVE THEIR EFFECT; MEANWHILE, US SHORT-TERM HELP WOULD BE USEFUL. HE MENTIONED AS POSSIBILITIES US INFLUENCE WITH PRIVATE AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, CONSOLIDATION OF TURKISH DEBTS TO US PRIVATE AND OFFICIAL INSTITUTIONS, BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CREDITS, SECURITY SUPPORTING ASSISTANCE (SSA), EXIM BANK PROJECT CREDITS, COOPERATION IN DEFENSE PRODUCTION, AND OTHERS.

6. IN RESPONSE, NIMETZ SAID THAT THE NEW APPROACH AS OUTLINED BY PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT AND ELEKDAG STRIKES A VERY SYMPATHETIC NOTE IN THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. THE US IS VERY SERIOUS ABOUT ENCOURAGING DEMOCRACY. HE SAID THAT THE US WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSULT MUTUALLY WITH TURKEY ON THE MIDDLE EAST, ARMS CONTROL, HUMAN RIGHTS, THE WORLD ECONOMY AND THE HORN OF AFRICA, AMONG OTHERS. THIS WOULD BE ONE METHOD, HE SUGGESTED, OF MEETING OUR MUTUAL DESIRE FOR A NEW APPROACH. NIMETZ SUGGESTED THAT THROUGH STATEMENTS WE COULD CALL INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THE NEW APPROACH.

7. NIMETZ SAID THE USG AGREED THAT THE SECURITY

RELATIONSHIP SHOULD FOLLOW FROM THE BASIC BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP WHICH IS GROUNDED, INTER ALIA, ON THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY.

8. NIMETZ ALSO SAID WE FELT NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE DEFENSE RELATIONSHIP WHICH WAS IN THE INTEREST OF BOTH COUNTRIES AS WELL AS THE REST OF THE ALLIANCE. HE ADDED THAT AMERICANS WOULD NOT UNDERSTAND ANY BALANCING OF DOLLARS FOR BASES IN TURKEY. WE COULD NOT CONSIDER THE DCA AS PAYMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF INSTALLATIONS ON TURKEY'S OIL. FURTHERMORE, ANY ATTEMPT TO CHANGE THE DCA WOULD RAISE SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES FOR THE US ADMINISTRATION WITH RESPECT TO CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, ESPECIALLY IN 1978.
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9. NIMETZ SAID THAT IN THE US VIEW THE MERE EXISTENCE OF US INTELLIGENCE INSTALLATIONS ON TURKISH SOIL WAS NOT PROVOCATIVE TO THE SOVIET UNION GIVEN THAT TURKEY IS A PART OF NATO.

10. CONCLUDING HIS OPENING PRESENTATION, NIMETZ SAID THAT CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF THE DCA SHOULD NOT BE SEEN AS AN END, BUT AS A BEGINNING. AS US-TURKISH RELATIONS IMPROVE AND THE SITUATION CLARIFIES AND DEVELOPS, FURTHER AREAS OF COOPERATION CAN BE CONSIDERED. UNTIL THEN, HE THOUGH WE SHOULD LIMIT DISCUSSION TO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS WITHOUT ADDING MORE BURDENS. ELEKDAG INTERRUPTED TO ASK NIMETZ TO AMPLIFY ON THE MEANING OF HIS STATEMENT. NIMETZ SAID THAT PASSAGE OF THE DCA WOULD NOT BE EASY. ADDING ANY MORE LEGISLATIVE BAGGAGE WOULD ALMOST MAKE IT A POLITICAL IMPOSSIBILITY AT THIS TIME. HE THEN REVIEWED CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN ABOUT TURKISH ACTIONS IN CYPRUS AND THE ANTICIPATED DIFFICULTY IN GETTING THE DCA APPROVED. HRE REPEATED THAT AFTER THE DCA IS APPROVED THE US COULD CONSIDER OTHER WAYS OF IMPROVING THE RELATIONSHIP.

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11. CONCERNING TURKEY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, NIMETZ REITERATED THE SYMPATHETIC CONCERN WITH WHICH THE US VIEWS TURKEY'S DIFFICULTIES. THE US SEES NO QUICK SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, HOWEVER, AND BELIEVES THAT THE FIRST STEP MUST BE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF WHICH WOULD SIGNAL TO OTHERS THAT A TURNING POINT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED. NO OTHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE INSTITUTION WOULD APPEAR ABLE OR WILLING TO PROVIDE IMMEDIATE FUNDING ABSENT AN IMF AGREEMENT. HE SAID THE US WOULD LIKE TO HEAR HOW TURKEY PLANS TO DEAL WITH ITS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OVER THE LONG TERM AS WELL AS ITS PLANS TO DEAL WITH THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEM AREAS.

12. IN RESPONSE, ELEKDAG SAID HE WAS DISTURBED BY SEVERAL OF NIMETZ' REMARKS, INCLUDING HIS STATEMENT THAT HE FELT NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE FOR THE STATUS OF THE US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIP, THAT US DEFENSE ASSISTANCE IS NOT PAYMENT FOR INSTALLATIONS, THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF THE DCA TO BE UNREALISTIC AND THAT THE SOVIET UNION DOES NOT CONSIDER US INTEL-LIGENCE INSTALLATIONS TO BE PROVOCATIVE.

13. ELEKDAG THEN TOOK ISSUE WITH EACH OF THOSE STATE-MENTS. HE ARGUED THAT SOVIET OFFICIALS HAD IN FACT ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS INDICATED THAT THEY CONSIDERED THE
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US INSTALLATIONS TO BE PROVOCATIVE. HE AGREED THAT ASSISTANCE TO THE GOT SHOULD NOT BE "IN PAYMENT" FOR THE INSTALLATIONS BUT SAID THAT TURKEY NEEDS ASSISTANCE TO BE ABLE TO FULFILL ITS ALLIANCE COMMITMENTS. HE SAID THAT THE NON-PASSAGE OF THE DCA HAD BEEN COSTLY TO TURKEY AND WAS ONE OF THE REASONS FOR TURKEY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. HE ALSO SAID THAT THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT FEELS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THE US ATTITUDE TOWARDS

THE SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. THERE IS AN APPARENT US DISINTEREST AND DISREGARD FOR TURKEY THAT IS NOT EASILY EXPLAINED TO THE TURKISH PUBLIC.

14. CONCERNING THE ALLEGED DIFFICULTY OF MODIFYING THE DCA, ELEKDAG SAID THAT HE BELIEVED PRIMIN ECEVIT'S TWO ALLTERNATIVES WHICH HE HAD PREVIOULSLY MENTIONED TO AMBASSADOR SPIERS OBIATED THAT PROBLEM.(THESE ALTERNATIVES ARE TO SUPPLEMENT THE DCA WITHOUT DELAY OR TO OTHERWISE MODIFY IT AFTER PASSAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE 21).

15. ELEKDAG SAID THE MOST DISTRUBING ELEMENT OF NIMETZ' STATEMENT WAS HIS COMMENT THAT HE ENVISAGED SOME DIFFICULTY IN SUPPLEMENTING THE ASSISTANCE PROVIDED IN THE DCA. HE SAID HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING ON A JOINT PACKAGE OF SUPPLMENTARY MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. FAILURE TO DO SO WOULD CREATE NEW PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTIES IN THE US-TURKISH RELATIONS.

16. NIMETZ THEN ANSWERED ELEKDAG'S ARGUMENTS CONCERNING THE SOVIET ATTITUDE TOWARD US INSTALLATIONS IN TURKEY. HE ALSO STATED THAT WHILE THERE HAD BEEN AN EFFECT ON THE TURKISH MILITARY IN THE LAST TWO YEARS, THE
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PROVISIONAL STATUS OF THOSE INSTALLATIONS HAD BEEN COSTELY TO THE US AND THE ALLIANCE. THE COST OF THE DELAY IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DCA WAS NOT ALL ONE-SIDED, HE POINTED OUT. NIMETZ ALSO SAID THAT IN SPITE OF THE DIFFICULTIES OF SUPPLEMENTING THE DCA, HE WOULD WELCOME HEARING TURKEY'S VIEWS ON WAYS THE DCA MIGHT BE SUPPLEMENTED AFTER IT TOOK EFFECT.

17. ELEKDAG THEN LISTED SEVERAL SHORT-TERM AND MEDIUM-TERM STEPS THAT HE SUGGESTED THE US COULD CONSIDER TAKING TO ASSIST TURKEY IN OVERCOMING ITS CURRENT ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES. THE SHORT-TERM STEPS INCLUDE:

- A. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE USG THAT THERE IS NO "ECONOMIC EMBARGO" ON TURKEY;
- B. US USE OF ITS INFLUENCE IN INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT TURKEY;
- C. US USE OF ITS INFLUENCE WITH THE IMF AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AND PRIVATE FINANCIAL ORGANIZATIONS TO SUPPORT TURKEY'S EFFORTS TO BOTAIN ADEQUATE RESOURCES TO SUPPLEMENT ITS STABILIZATION PROGRAM;
- D. CONSOLIDATION OF TURKEY'S PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DEBTS TO THE US;
- E. CASH TRANSFERS TO ASSIST TURKEY IN ITS

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS;
F. ASSISTANCE IN MARKETING TURKEY'S AGRICULTURAL
STOCKS AND REDUCED BARRIERS TO TURKISH EXPORTS TO US; AND
G. FINANCING OF SPECIFIC TURKISH PROJECTS
THROUGH EXIM BANK.
THE MEDIUM-TERM MEASURES INCLUDED:
A. ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND SPECIFIC PROJECTS;
B. JOINT ARMS PRODUCTION; AND
C. REACTIVATION OF MIMEX-SIMEX PROGRAMS.

18. THE MORNING SESSION THEN CONCLUDED WITH COMMITMENT
THAT THE US DELEGATION WOULD RESPOND TO THESE IDEAS
DURING THE AFTERNOON SESSION.
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